

DWR Climate News Digest

December 2018

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The information provided in the DWR Climate News Digest is a selected compilation of recent popular news articles, publications, and other information relevant to climate change and water management, and is intended to provide educational and thought-provoking material for water managers and water users.

To subscribe to the DWR Climate News listserv and receive notifications when new editions are posted, send an email to: climatechange@water.ca.gov.

TOPICS

Human Health Impacts

[Health benefits far outweigh the costs of climate change, WHO report says](#)

[AccuWeather – December 8, 2018]

“The value of health gains from climate action would be approximately double the cost of mitigation policies at a global level.”

[Report Warns Climate Change Will Affect Health, Especially for Most Vulnerable Populations](#)

[California Health Report – December 12, 2018]

“Californians are likely to experience more physical and mental health problems, injuries and death in the coming decades as a result climate change, according to a recent state report.”

Agriculture/Food Production

[How to Feed the World Without Breaking the Paris Agreement](#)

[Pacific Standard – December 7, 2018]

“The agriculture sector generates a quarter of global emissions every year, and the world's population is expected to balloon to nearly 10 billion by mid-century. How will we feed them all?”

[Agriculture is a big climate problem. Now farmers are sharing solutions.](#)

[Grist – December 18, 2018]

“Last year, in a decision known as the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture, farming was formally acknowledged as a key part of the U.N. climate process for the first time.”

General Water Management

[Climate Change Will Bring Us Heavy Rains and Droughts at the Same Time](#)

[Popular Mechanics – December 14, 2018]

“A new study examines a paradox within this new climate—while extreme rain events are more frequent, water supplies across the globe are shrinking. The answer, the study says, lies in a worldwide phenomenon of drying soil.”

[Water shortages ahead? Sierra Nevada snow pack on track to shrink 79 percent, new study finds](#)

[December 15, 2018 – San Jose Mercury News]

“The amount of runoff from Sierra snow into California’s largest reservoirs is heading for a dramatic decline — a 54 percent drop in the next 20 to 40 years and 79 percent in the next 60 to 80 years, according to a new study from scientists at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.”

Sea-Level Rise and other Ocean Impacts

[With Sea Level Rise in Mind, San Francisco Port Gets Dozens of Ideas for Redeveloping Embarcadero Piers](#)

[The Weather Channel – December 3, 2018]

“However, hanging over any plans for the 3-mile strip — that runs from Fisherman's Wharf to AT&T Park — is the threat of sea level rise.”

['Retreat' Is Not an Option as A California Beach Town Plans for Rising Seas](#)

[NPR – December 4, 2018]

“The city of Del Mar, Calif., located about 20 miles north of downtown San Diego, has voted against a formal policy of ‘managed retreat’ from rising seas.”

Extreme Weather Events

[Climate change was behind 15 weather disasters in 2017](#)

[The Washington Post – December 10, 2018]

“A drought scorched the Great Plains, causing wildfires and \$2.5 billion in agriculture losses. Catastrophic floods submerged more than a third of Bangladesh. These were among 15 extreme weather events in 2017 that were made more likely by human-caused climate change.”

[Winter is shrinking, study finds, posing new fire and water risks](#)

[Los Angeles Times – December 31, 2018]

“Deep snowpacks that held fast through winter, then melted in a torrent each spring, are instead seeping away earlier in the year. The period of winter weather is shrinking too, with autumn lasting longer and spring starting earlier.”

Greenhouse Gas Mitigation

[California Mandates 100-Percent Zero-Emission Bus Fleet](#)

[Capital Public Radio – December 14, 2018]

“The California Air Resources Board voted unanimously to require that all new buses be carbon-free by 2029. Environmental advocates project that the last buses emitting greenhouse gases will be phased out by 2040.”

[An unexpected side effect of drought: Higher carbon emissions.](#)

[National Geographic – December 21, 2018]

“Drought hurts trees, people, and animals—and it also hurts the carbon budget.”

Climate Change Adaptation

[Caltrans Reports Highlights Climate Change Effects on Highway System](#)

[CBS SF – December 17, 2018]

“The California Department of Transportation has released new reports on the negative effects of climate change on the state’s highway system and infrastructure.”

[Here’s How Much Climate Change Could Cost the U.S.](#)

[Scientific American – December 3, 2018]

“Warming could exact a major economic toll, but reducing emissions and adapting to changes can alleviate those costs.”

International Planning

[G-20 nations agree on trade, migration; not climate change](#)

[NBC News – December 1, 2018]

“At the G-20, 19 nations agreed to support the Paris accord on fighting climate change with the United States the lone holdout.”

[World Bank to invest \\$200bn to combat climate change](#)

[The Guardian – December 3, 2018]

“The World Bank is to make about \$200bn (£157bn) available to fund action on climate change from 2021-25, helping countries adapt to the effects of warming and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.”

BLOGS/Commentary

[States can lead the way on climate change. Let’s get to work.](#)

[The Washington Post – December 11, 2018]

“For the sake of our future and the future of our children, it is time to put aside partisan interest and get to work.”

[How Should You Talk to Policymakers about Climate Change?](#)

[Scientific American – December 11, 2018]

“Nobody knows for sure what the most effective strategy is, but I have a few ideas.”

Additional Items of Interest

[Where we are in seven charts and what you can do to help](#)

[BBC News – December 2, 2018]

“So how warm has the world got and what can we do about it?”

[California clears final hurdle for state's landmark solar panel mandate for new homes](#)

[CNBC – December 6, 2018]

“A requirement for new homes built in California starting in 2020 to include solar electric systems is now formally part of the state's building code.”

[A larger issue looms over short-term Colorado River plan: climate change](#)

[AZ Central – December 14, 2018]

“Looming over the negotiations is a long-term issue that is intensifying the strains on the river: climate change.”

[The massive CO2 emitter you may not know about](#)

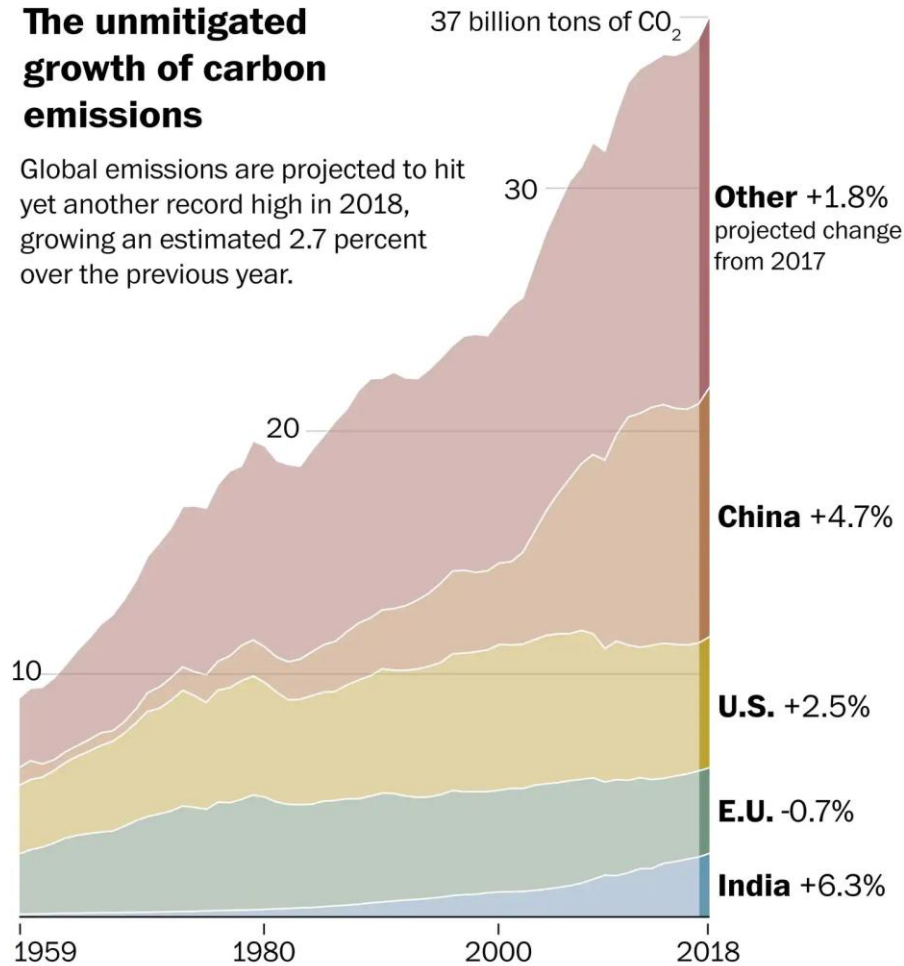
[BBC News – December 17, 2018]

“Concrete is the most widely used man-made material in existence. It is second only to water as the most-consumed resource on the planet. But, while cement - the key ingredient in concrete - has shaped much of our built environment, it also has a massive carbon footprint.”

Images to Ponder

The unmitigated growth of carbon emissions

Global emissions are projected to hit yet another record high in 2018, growing an estimated 2.7 percent over the previous year.



Figures show emissions from fossil fuels and industry, which includes cement manufacturing but not deforestation.

Source: Global Carbon Project

JOHN MUYSKENS/THE WASHINGTON POST

“Between 2014 and 2016, emissions remained largely flat, leading to hopes that the world was beginning to turn a corner. Those hopes appear to have been dashed. In 2017, global emissions grew 1.6 percent. The rise in 2018 is projected to be 2.7 percent.”

[‘We are in trouble.’ Global carbon emissions reached a record high in 2018.](#)

Please take our Climate News Digest Survey

As the new year begins, we plan to update the Climate News Digest to better meet our subscriber's needs and to disseminate latest climate news and research.

Many thanks to those who have completed the survey! If you have yet to complete, please see the link below to take our two-minute, anonymous survey.

Thank you,

The Climate News Digest Team

[2018 Climate News Digest Survey](#)

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